RDW.

Boston, Oct. 16, 1840.

My dear Collins:

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By this time, I suppose you are very near the shores of old England — perhaps fairly landed. That all possible success may attend your mission is the ardent desire of my heart; because it is connected with the peaceable triumph of our great anti-slavery enterprise. Nothing special has transpired since you left. Your absence, as yet, has not excited any particular inquiry. When asked where you are gone, we say to England; deeming it both useless and needless to feign or affect mystery about it. Neither the Emancipator nor the Abolitionist has noticed your departure; but I suppose both of them will do so, in due season. In his last number, Leavitt virtually threatens to prosecute the Standard, if it be not careful how it speaks of him! [The Emancipator, by the way, is pretty near "death's doors." Our tried friend, J. S. Gibbons, in a letter just received from him, says an old friend met him a day or two since in New-York, who said — "There's to be a meeting this afternoon, aint there?" "Don't know. Where, and about what?" "Why, at No. 9, Spruce-street, to consult whether the Emancipator shall go on, or stop." Leavitt has started a penny daily, to advocate the third party project. He calls it "The Ballot-Box." It will doubtless place him, and all who are concerned in it, in a sad "box", ere long. We shall know, in the course of a few weeks, how many abolitionists are disposed to countenance that unwise movement. I think the number will be found to be small indeed; at least, I hope so, for the integrity of our cause. The third party is only another name for new organization. They twain are one.]

[You will, of course, wish to hear how our State Conventions at Worcester and Springfield went off." I refer you to the Liberator of to-day for an account of the proceedings. The meeting at Worcester was very interesting, but the number of delegates in attendance not large." Some three or four hundred dollars were collected in pledges and cash, and about two hundred were raised by the Fair. The meeting at Springfield came very near being a total failure. The time and the place chosen for it were highly unfavorable. There were not enough present in the forenoon to warrant an organization. In the afternoon, some thirty persons were present, and in the evening less than a hundred." The next day, there was very little increase, though in the evening there were, perhaps, two hundred persons in the audience. The principal speakers were Rogers, Abby Kelley, Johnson, Chace, "Rev. Dr." Osgood, and myself. Dr. Osgood received all the female delegates to his house, and was very solicitous to have Rogers and myself take shelter under his roof, but we declined — preferring to stop with Dr. Church. He said, in our meeting, that he did not wish to be called Dr.; that he was sick of the title; that he had never sought it, &c. &c. He also said that he had a very high opinion of his brother Garrison, and liked the Liberator very much, though he was in hourly expectation of being put into the Refuge of Oppression. He behaved, on the whole, very well, and did not say one word in favor of the new, or against the old organization. It happened that there was a tremendous Whig gathering on the very day of our Convention; and, consequently, the whole town was in commotion. There were long processions, public harangues, illuminations, transparencies, &c. What a work is to be done for our cause in the western part of this State! But where are the laborers?

I have just returned from the Middlesex County Convention at Groton. In the forenoon, about a dozen persons were present; in the afternoon, twice that number; and in the evening, one hundred: not half a dozen of whom were from all the other towns in the county!]

[The fact is, Bro. Collins, and we cannot and ought not to hide it, a large proportion of the abolitionists in this State, and elsewhere, are determined to go with their party at the approaching election; and they will not attend our meetings until after election, even if at all. This is not less humiliating than true. Besides this, new organization has benumbed the sensibilities and paralyzed the energies of very many who were once actively engaged in our cause. It is the worst foe that liberty has to contend with — the most dangerous form of pro-slavery.]

B [This morning I go to Methuen, to attend the Essex County Convention. I expect we shall have to address bare walls; but, no matter. After all, believing that God is with us, we may confidently affirm that we are multitudinous as to number, and victorious as to principles.] Abby Kelley will attend the meeting. She spoke eloquently and impressively at Springfield. She also addressed a public meeting of the Boston Female Anti-Slavery Society, in the Melodeon, last Wednesday evening. I was at Groton; but I hear that she acquitted herself well. Mrs. Southwick was in the chair.

3 [Rogers has consented to write regularly for the editorial department of the Standard. Bro. Johnson is now in New-York, and will probably remain until your return, superintending the paper. — But the Executive Committee are suffering for the want of funds, and the Standard must soon, I fear, be ingloriously pulled, in the presence of our enemies, unless some aid can be promptly obtained from abroad.] There are some, at least, in England, who will try to help us.

I was very unfortunate on my return from the Worcester Convention, having lost my wallet, containing upwards of fifty dollars in money, and an order to the amount of thirty dollars, besides sundry valuable papers. There is now no probability that I shall ever recover it. It is a severe loss for me in my poverty, though not a very large sum. I feel like an animal that has been denuded of its fur. But, "the Lord is my shepard," and he will not fail to watch over me and mine.

Mr. John A. Collins,
Liverpool, England.
care of Fearing, Brothers & Co.

Mary Garrison
Oct 16/40

We are all in good health at home. My three boys are in fine condition; but I cannot tell which of them I love best, or which is the handsomest. The babe Wendell Phillips promises to be a formidable rival of his brothers. Helen desires to be very cordially remembered to you.

I did intend to write, by the Caledonia, to my beloved friends George Thompson, Elizabeth Pease, Richard D. Webb, John Dunlop, C. L. Remond, &c.; but I can only beseech you to give them the assurances of my brotherly love for them all. They shall hear from me, Deo volente, by the next steamer. Let us hear from you as often as possible. The Lord bless and prosper you!

Yours, truly,

Wm. Lloyd Garrison.